

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A viral vector ~~according to claim 7~~ comprising an Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) packaging signal and a heterologous gene capable of being expressed in the vector, wherein the SIV packaging signal comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

25. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 24 further comprising the region between the 5' major splice donor site and the gag initiation codon or a fragment of either thereof.

26. (currently amended) A viral vector ~~according to claim 7~~ comprising an Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) packaging signal and a heterologous gene capable of being expressed in the vector, wherein the SIV packaging signal comprises nucleotides 53-85 of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (new) A vector according to claim 26 further comprising the region between the 5' major splice donor site and the gag initiation codon or a fragment of either thereof.

28. (new) A vector according to claim 24, wherein the heterologous gene encodes a therapeutic protein or peptide, or an antigenic protein or peptide.

29. (new) A vector according to claim 26, wherein the heterologous gene encodes a therapeutic protein or peptide, or an antigenic protein or peptide.

30. (new) A process for producing a virus encoding a heterologous gene, which process comprises infecting a host cell with a packaging defective Simian Immunodeficiency

Virus (SIV) genome having a mutation in the packaging signal such that the viral RNA is not packaged within an SIV capsid and a viral vector comprising an SIV packaging signal and a heterologous gene capable of being expressed in the vector according to claim 24, and culturing the infected host cell.

31. (new) A process according to claim 30 further comprising formulating the virus as a composition with a carrier or diluent.

32. (new) A virus produced by the process of claim 30.

33. (new) A composition comprising the virus according to claim 32 and a carrier or diluent.

34. (new) A process for producing a virus encoding a heterologous gene, which process comprises infecting a host cell with a packaging defective Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) genome having a mutation in the packaging signal such that the viral RNA is not packaged within an SIV capsid and a viral vector comprising an SIV packaging signal and a heterologous gene capable of being expressed in the vector according to claim 26, and culturing the infected host cell.

35. (new) A process according to claim 34 further comprising formulating the virus as a composition with a carrier or diluent.

36. (new) A virus produced by the process of claim 34.

37. (new) A composition comprising the virus according to claim 36 and a carrier or diluent.